

Message Text

PAGE 01 TOKYO 12341 040943Z

15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3019

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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UNCLAS TOKYO 12341

PASS TREASURY, FEDERAL RESERVE, COMMERCE AND CEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EFIN, JA

SUBJECT: GNP - SECOND QUARTERPRELIMINARY ESTIMATE

REF: TOKYO 7806

SUMMARY: JAPAN'S REAL GNP, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ROSE 0.8 PERCENT IN SECOND QUARTER 1975, REVERSING DECLINES OF THE TWO PREVIOUS QUARTERS. FINAL DOMESTIC DEMAND INCREASED BY ONLY 0.1 PERCENT IN REAL TERMS FROM PRIOR QUARTER REFLECTING LACK OF VIGOROUS RECOVERY OF MOST FINAL DEMAND COMPONENTS. CONSUMPTION FELL 0.4 PERCENT FROM PRIOR QUARTERWHILE DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION ROSE 0.3 PERCENT. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPAN'S REAL GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, INCREASED BY 0.8 PERCENT FROM FIRST QUARTER LEVEL ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES RELEASED BY EPA. THIS RISE IN UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TOKYO 12341 040943Z

TOTAL REAL GNP, THE FIRST SINCE JULY-SEPT QUARTER OF 1974, WAS MAINLY DUE TO SHARP INCREASE IN RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION AND GROWTH IN THE NET FOREIGN BALANCE. WHILE THE ANNUAL RATE OF INCREASE IN TOTAL REAL GNP

WAS 3.2 PERCENT, REAL FINAL DOMESTIC DEMAND ROSE AT A RATE OF ONLY 0.4 PERCENT FROM FIRST QUARTER REFLECTING DULL PACE OF CONSUMPTION AND BUSINESS INVESTMENT DURING THE SPRING. PRIVATE CONSUMPTION AND PRIVATE NON-RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT DECLINED AT ANNUAL RATE OF 1.6 AND 14.4 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY. THE SHARP INCREASE IN PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT (WHICH ADVANCED AT A 40.4 PERCENT ANNUAL RATE) APPEARS TO REFLECT THE IMPACT OF SPECIAL GOVERNMENT LOAN PROGRAMS TO AID THE PRIVATE HOUSING INDUSTRY INSTITUTED IN THAT QUARTER. THE LEVEL OF INVENTORY INVESTMENT ROSE SOMEWHAT FROM THAT IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

2. THERE WAS ONLY A SMALL REVISION IN TOTAL REAL GNP FIGURES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1975, WITH THE PERCENT DECLINE FROM THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1974 NOW ESTIMATED AT 0.5 PERCENT RATHER THAN THE 0.7 PERCENT DECREASE REPORTED REFTEL. FOLLOWING ARE GNP HIGHLIGHTS FOR RECENT QUARTERS BASED ON SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURES AND EXPRESSED AS PERCENT CHANGE FROM THE PRIOR QUARTER:

	1974	1975
	IV	I II
NOMINAL GNP	2.8	-1.4 3.7
GNP DEFLATOR	3.2	-1.0 2.9
REAL GNP	-0.4	-0.5 0.8
REAL FINAL DOMESTIC		
DEMAND	-0.9	1.4 0.1

3. CHANGES IN COMPONENTS OF GNP DURING MOST RECENT THREE QUARTERS BASED ON SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURES IN CONSTANT PRICES AND EXPRESSED AS PERCENT CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER WERE AS FOLLOWS:

	1974	1975
	IV	I II
PRIVATE CONSUMPTION OAP	3.0	-0.4
UNCLASSIFIED		

PAGE 03 TOKYO 12341 040943Z

GOVERNMENT		
CONSUMPTION	0.0	-1.1 2.4
FIXED INVESTMENT	0.7	-0.4 0.3
HOUSING, PRIVATE	4.8	-9.9 8.9
GOVERNMENT		
INVESTMENT	6.5	8.8 1.9
FINAL DOMESTIC		
DEMAND	-0.9	1.4 0.1
INVENTORIES	-22.8	-76.3 14.8
NET EXTERNAL SURPLUS ON		
CURRENT ACCOUNT	53.0	3.7 16.5
EXPORTS OF GOODS &		
SERVICES	4.8	-3.8 2.2

IMPORTS OF GOODS &

SERVICES -3.6 -5.9 -2.2

GNP - REAL -0.4 -0.5 0.8

4. EPA OFFICIAL, NOTING SIXTH CONSECUTIVE QUATERLY DECLINE
IN PRIVATE PLANT AND EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT, SAID THIS APPEARED
TO REFLECT NOT ONLY THE SIZE OF THE CURRENT DEFLATIONARY GAP
(ABOUT 20 PERCENT EXCESS MANUFACTURING CAPACITY), BUT ALSO
EXPECTATIONS THAT FUTURE GROWTH RATES WILL NOT B AS HIGH AS
IN THE PAST. OFFICIAL POINTED TO 1965 RECESSIN, WHEN DEFLA-
TIONARY GAP WAS ALSO VERY LARGE (15 PERCENT) BUT PRIVAGE EQUIP-
MENT INVESTMENT REEBOUNDED RAPIDLY AS MANUFACTURERS INCREASED
CAPACITY TO PREPARE FOR RESUMPTION OF HIGH PRODUCTION RATES.
HODGSON

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